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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

NATURAL VIRUS OF COTTON PESTS TO BE FIELD TESTED IN MISSISSIPPI

WASHINGTON, March 15—A new way to use a naturally occurring insect virus to control two of cotton's major pests will be field tested next month near Leland, Miss., a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist reported today.

"If we succeed, farmers could have a new way to cut back on chemicals needed to control these insects while better protecting the environment," said D. D. Hardee of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The test will begin the week of April 15. It will pit a natural virus, called a *Heliothis* nuclear polyhedrosis virus, against the tobacco budworm and cotton bollworm. The two insects cause an estimated \$1 billion in damage in the United States each year, and at least \$50 million in damage and control costs in Delta cotton.

ARS and several cooperating groups will conduct the test in a 100-square-mile area of the Mississippi Delta. The area, in portions of Sunflower and Washington counties between Leland and Indianola, Miss., is bordered by U.S. Highway 61 on the west and U.S. Highway 82 on the north.

What's new in the test is not the virus but the approach.

"The virus will be sprayed only on weeds within the test area, not on any crop fields," said Hardee, director of the ARS Southern Field Crop Insect Management Laboratory in Stoneville, Miss. "It's on weeds, early in the spring, that these insects first develop from larvae into adult moths. These moths later infest cotton and other crops."

The virus, registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, infects only the larvae of *Heliothis* insects such as the budworm (*Heliothis virescens*) and bollworm (*H. zea*). It is short lived and does not infect people, animals or plants or harm the environment, he said.

According to Marion R. Bell, an ARS entomologist specializing in insect pathology, the only known adverse health reaction to the virus is eye irritation from direct contact with the material in concentrated form. But, he noted that the test virus will be highly diluted with water and

should not pose a problem. The material will be sprayed by aircraft.

Bell said the test has support from the Delta Council—an organization that promotes economic development—as well as several local physicians, state and local agencies and environmental groups. The supporters will be helping inform the public of the safety of the test, and a brochure describing it is being distributed, he added.

In three years of ARS tests on small plots, Bell said, the number of bollworm and budworm moths emerging from weeds was cut 88 to 95 percent. “Results like this over a large test area could substantially decrease infestations of the insects in Delta crops during the growing season,” he said.

The test is based on research by agency entomologist Earl A. Stadelbacher. Through 25 years of work on cotton insect populations, he determined that weeds—particularly wild geranium—were early-season hosts for the insects. The insects feed on weeds that grow on roadsides and field borders while waiting for cotton and other crops to emerge in the spring.

Sandoz Crop Protection Corporation of Des Plaines, Ill., is supplying the virus. The company registered it with EPA, under the tradename Elcar, for use by farmers to control *Heliothis* insects on or near food and fiber crops up to the time of harvest.

Although used commercially in the early 1980s, Elcar was removed from the market as the result of competition from new chemicals. Recent emphasis on the environment and use of biocontrols, however, renewed the research agency’s interest in the virus.

Agencies and organizations cooperating with ARS in the test are the Delta Council, National Cotton Council, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, Mississippi State University and Sandoz Crop Protection.

Questions concerning the test can be directed to lab personnel at Stoneville, Hardee said.

Matt Bosisio (309) 685-4011

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USDA IDENTIFIES 560 SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS OF 1890 INSTITUTIONS

WASHINGTON, March 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has identified 560 positions to be filled by students of the 17 historically black 1890 institutions in its second annual USDA/1890 summer intern program.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jack C. Parnell said the program provides minority students with an excellent chance to sample the many careers opportunities at USDA. "These summer jobs can help make minority students aware of the many rewarding and fulfilling careers available with USDA," Parnell said. "We hope they will then decide to pursue careers in agriculture when they graduate."

The summer jobs are with 22 USDA agencies at locations throughout the country. Parnell said a wide variety of jobs are available, including laboratory aides, bio-technicians, fire crewmembers, computer assistants, and civil engineers.

Last year, 330 minority students were employed in the USDA/1890 summer intern program. Comments from students in the 1989 program indicated the summer employment with USDA provided them with valuable training and experience, and successfully communicated USDA's interest in recruiting minority students for permanent employment.

The 1990 summer intern program is part of USDA's continuing commitment to strengthen ties with the 1890 historically black land grant institutions and Tuskegee University, Parnell said. USDA's FY 1991 budget, announced Jan. 29, proposes a major initiative to support the 1890 institutions, including a \$11 million matching grant program to build institutional capacity.

1890 Institution students who want to apply for the USDA summer intern program should contact their college or university placement office or USDA liaison office by March 30.

The 1890 Institutions are: Alabama A&M, Normal; Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss.; University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Delaware State College, Dover; Florida A&M University, Tallahassee; Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Ga.; Kentucky State University, Frankfort; Langston University, Langston, Okla.; Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo.; University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Princess Anne; North Carolina AT&T State University, Greensboro; Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas; South Carolina State College,

Orangeburg; Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.; Tennessee State University, Nashville; Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Ala., and Virginia State University, Petersburg.

Diane O'Connor (202) 447-4026

#

YEUTTER NAMES MEMBERS TO NATIONAL POTATO PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, March 15—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced 20 new appointments and 11 reappointments to the National Potato Promotion Board, which is made up of 96 potato producers.

Newly appointed producers, who will serve three-year terms that begin immediately, include: Rex B. Creswell, Henagar, Ala.; Jerry W. Smith, Blanca, Colo.; Donald C. Appenzeller, Magnolia, Del.; Thomas M. Rhodes, St. Augustine, Fla.

New members from Idaho include: Thomas R. Elliott, Mountain Home; Herman A. Funk, Aberdeen; Bryon L. Reed, Idaho Falls; James B. Tiede, American Falls; Warren J. Walters, Rexburg; and Joe R. Weitz, Caldwell.

Other new Potato Board members who will serve terms that will expire on Feb. 28, 1993 are Thomas D. Langan, Muscatine, Iowa; John B. Crawford, Lakeview, Mich.; Alan D. Collette, Grafton, N.D.; David A. Cacka, Malin, Ore.; Manuel J. Borges, Middletown, R.I.; Howard L. Bracken, Enterprise, Utah; Reade H. Belote, Cape Charles, Va.; James N. Nelson, La Conner, Wash.; and Tom C. Solbrack, Othello, Wash.

Gregory K. Robertson, Bunnell, Fla., was appointed to complete an unexpired term on the Potato Board that will end Feb. 28, 1991.

Reappointed by Yeutter to serve three-year terms ending Feb. 28, 1993, are Donald E. Neb, Fort Morgan, Colo.; David L. Funk, Murtaugh, Idaho; Daniel C. Walton, Rupert, Idaho; Darwin R. Knudtson, Geneseo, Ill.; Sigurd R. Bjornstad, Cando, N.D.; Tony A. Amstad, Sherwood, Ore.; John B. Barrett, Muleshoe, Texas; Roger J. Knutzen, Burlington, Wash.; Kris Mehlenbacher, Pasco, Wash.; Eli Wollman, Jr., Warden, Wash.; and John F. Wolter, Antigo, Wis.

Authorized under the 1971 Potato Research and Promotion Act, the board is composed of members appointed by the secretary of agriculture from nominations made by potato producers. Board membership is based on the amount of potato production in the states.

The Potato Board administers an industry-funded national research and promotion program to increase domestic potato consumption and U.S. potato exports.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the operations of the board.

Jacque Lee (202) 447-6179

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USDA DONATES FEED GRAINS TO HONDURAS

WASHINGTON, March 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has donated 13,700 metric tons of U.S. corn to Honduras, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA'S Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$1.2 million donation will be sold by the government of Honduras to its private sector to help meet food and industrial needs arising from corn production shortfalls. The proceeds will be used to provide food assistance to the needy, assist small farmers in projects to increase production and improve rural infrastructure and distribution. The supply period is fiscal year 1990.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The program is out by the Agency for International Development, acting as the agent of CCC.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 382-9263.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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FOREST SERVICE ISSUES NEW PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION OF APPEALABLE DECISIONS

WASHINGTON, March 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has announced new procedures for assuring that interested or affected parties receive timely notices of appealable Forest Service decisions.

Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson said the new procedures, scheduled to become effective April 5, will help alleviate the delay between when a decision is signed and when a potential appellant receives a mailed notice or otherwise learns of the decision. Robertson said such delays have often reduced the time available to file an appeal, since in the past an appeal period started when a decision was signed; under the new procedures, it will start the day following publication of legal notice of a decision.

The rule change requires that legal notices of all appealable decisions be published in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Federal Register, along with the specific dates of the appeal period.

Robertson emphasized that the legal notice requirement is in addition to the existing requirement that the deciding officer promptly mail the decision document to those who have requested it and all participants in the decisionmaking process.

In addition, deciding officers are being required to announce in the Federal Register which newspapers will be used for their legal notices of appealable decisions. This announcement will be made initially by April 5, and thereafter each October and April, at a minimum.

"These revisions benefit those who wish to appeal our decisions by providing additional and reliable sources of notice and by maximizing the time available for filing a notice of appeal," Robertson said. "They reflect the Forest Service's continuing commitment to improve its handling of administrative appeals and to be responsive to public comments regarding the appeals process."

For more information, contact Kathryn Hauser, (202) 382-9346. Written comments on the new procedures, postmarked on or before April 20, may be sent to Hauser, Office of Appeals, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

Judy Kissinger (202) 447-2494

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE
FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, March 15—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 16, through midnight Thursday, March 22.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending March 15, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price	79.68
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	12.99
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.20
Average U.S. location	0.39
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-15.58</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	64.10 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price	79.68
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-75.87</u>
	3.81
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.75</u>
	-0.94
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, March 22.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

YEUTTER NAMES TEAM FOR TRADE MISSION TO INDIA

WASHINGTON, March 16—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today appointed nine private-sector and government officials to meet with their counterparts in India to discuss agricultural trade prospects and other mutual agricultural interests.

This agricultural trade mission, scheduled for March 22-31, is one of a series administered cooperatively by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bernard Steinweg, senior vice president of Continental Grain Company, representing the North American Export Grain Association, will lead the mission. Steinweg was named mission leader Feb. 21.

Trade mission members are: F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager and associate administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, who will serve as mission coordinator; Daniel B. Conable, agricultural counselordesignate (New Delhi), FAS, USDA, who will serve as executive secretary; Constance J. Freeman, senior economist, Office of Food Policy, Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Duane D. Jones, co-chairman, U.S. Feed Grains Council.

Also George W. Opperman, administrator, Purebred Dairy Cattle Association; John Pielemeier, director for South Asian Affairs, Bureau for Asia, Near East and Europe, AID; James A. Stearns, supervisor, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, representing the National Forest Products Association; and David C. Thomas, president and chief executive officer, American Institute of Cooperation, representing the U.S. Cooperatives.

Mission representatives were chosen for their knowledge of U.S. export programs, as well as food needs, trade potential and economy of India. After completion of the mission, the representatives will report their findings and recommendations to President Bush and Congress.

Congress authorized the missions program in December 1987 to encourage greater U.S. private sector and foreign country participation in U.S. agricultural trade and development activities. The program was

announced by USDA in January 1988. To date, missions to 13 countries have been completed.

For more information, contact Wayne W. Sharp, U.S. coordinator, Agricultural Trade and Development Missions Program, Room 3058-S, USDA, FAS, Washington, D.C. 20250-1000; telephone (202) 382-0368.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

USDA TO DISCONTINUE REPORTING CARLOAD PRICES FOR CARCASS BEEF

WASHINGTON, March 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today it will discontinue reporting wholesale trading prices of steer and heifer carcass beef sold in carloads, effective June 29.

“During 1989, USDA collected prices for fewer than five carloads of USDA-graded “Choice” beef (yield grade 3) daily compared to nearly 170 carloads of boxed beef daily,” said Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service. “The prices published by USDA reflect the prices reported to us, and the prices we have been getting are not those of carloads of carcass beef,” he said.

Haley said prices given USDA market news reporters by wholesale buyers and sellers are the basis for USDA market news reports serving the agriculture industry and the wholesalers distributing agricultural products. AMS gathers and distributes the reports, issuing nearly 1,000 market news reports each day, covering over 650 different commodities.

“To meet the beef industry’s developing interest in boxed beef, USDA’s meat market news reporters have been refining techniques of reporting trading prices of the commodity,” Haley said.

For several years, market news specialists have computed a boxed beef carcass “cutout” value—the value of the beef as it might reflect the worth of a carcass—in order to help the cattle producer know at what price live cattle might be marketed, Haley said. Then, on Jan. 2, USDA refined the method for computing the “cutout” value, incorporating the latest cutting and marketing methods, and increasing from 12 to 40 the number of cuts on which the report is based.

The current boxed beef report gives cutout prices for two weight ranges of the popular “USDA Choice” and the increasingly popular

“USDA Select” grades, both in two weight ranges, 550-700 lbs. and 700-850 lbs.

USDA reports market news prices on hundreds of agricultural commodities traded openly in U.S. wholesale marketplaces. Among these commodities are livestock, poultry, fruits and vegetables, cotton, butter, cheese and tobacco. Most of the reports are available to users on a userfee subscription basis. News media obtaining the reports reproduce them for their own audiences. Hundreds of reports are also transmitted through AMS’s satellite network, speeding data electronically as well as through mail, and facilitating thousands of business transactions daily.

For additional information on the beef cutout price reporting system, contact James A. Ray, chief, market news branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2623-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090, telephone (202) 447-6231.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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U.S. DONATES CORN AND BUTTER TO ROMANIA

WASHINGTON, March 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 315,000 metric tons of U.S. corn and 7,500 metric tons of U.S. frozen salted butter to Romania, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA’S Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$48-million donation will be sold by the Romanian government to private sector livestock and poultry producers or mills for the production of feed. The proceeds will be used to provide food assistance to the needy and to fund developmental activities primarily in the agricultural sector. The activities include health and nutrition programs, agricultural cooperative development, and the promotion of processing and distribution systems for increased agricultural production. The supply period is fiscal year 1990.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The program is carried out by the U.S. Agency for International Development, acting as the agent of USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation.

For further information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 382-9263.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

USDA DONATES CORN TO POLAND

WASHINGTON, March 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is donating 173,225 metric tons of corn to Poland, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The corn replaces an earlier commitment to donate 10,000 metric tons of butter under President Bush's \$100-million food aid package to Poland.

After the two countries signed the initial agreement for USDA to provide butter, the Poles found themselves with an exportable surplus of butter, Dickerson said. "Instead of providing the unneeded butter, USDA now will provide the Poles with additional corn which will be used to support the development of their livestock and poultry industry," he said. "The corn will be sold and the proceeds used to enhance economic development, with an emphasis on the Polish agricultural sector."

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES NAMED TO AMERICAN EGG BOARD

WASHINGTON, March 19—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has named nine members and nine alternate members to the American Egg Board to serve two-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1991.

Appointed members and alternates, by region, are:

North Atlantic states—Jerry Kil, Franklin, Conn.; alternate, Paul David Sauder, Lititz, Pa.

South Atlantic states—Kenneth R. Paramore, Greenville, N.C.; alternate James R. Biggers, Winter Haven, Fla.; Vince L. Booker,

Gainesville, Ga.; alternate Danny R. Linville, Zephyrhills, Fla.

East North Central states—Duane L. Bunting, Palmyra, Wis.; alternate, Larry J. Seger, Dubois, Ind.

West North Central states—Arthur H. Smith-Vaughan, Knob Noster, Mo.; alternate, David J. Gardner, Wakefield, Neb.

South Central states—Charley J. Kammerdiener Jr., Hope, Ark.; alternate, Hank Novak, Flatonia, Texas; R. Kenneth Looper, Jackson, Miss.; alternate, Melvin D. Russell, Collierville, Tenn.

Western states—Mary L. Murphy, Canby, Ore.; alternate, Duncan Holt, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Barrie F. Wilcox, Roy, Wash.; alternate Glenn M. Hickman, Glendale, Ariz.

Yeutter also named Joseph W. Claybaugh, Carroll, Neb., and Stuart M. Friedell, Minneapolis, Minn., to fill member and alternate vacancies, respectively, in the West North Central states; and Jim R. Young, Little Rock, Ark., to fill an alternate vacancy in the South Central states. These appointments will complete vacant board member terms expiring Dec. 31.

Membership terms on the 18-member board are staggered to provide a continuity in policy. The board administers an egg research and promotion program authorized by the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act of 1974. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service reviews the program's budget, plans and projects to assure that it operates in the public interest.

The program is funded entirely by a 5-cent per 30-dozen assessment on eggs marketed by egg producers with flocks of over 30,000 hens.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

FEDERAL AGENCIES COOPERATE TO IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

DENVER, March 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management today announced a partnership to create more and better fishing on 461 million acres of federally administered lands in the United States, more than one-fifth of the U.S. land area.

The new partnership, announced by Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson and Bureau of Land Management Director Cy Jamison, joins the nation's two largest multiple-use land management agencies in

improving recreational fishing through better access and more information on fishing opportunities on Forest Service and BLM-administered lands. The agencies will work together to increase access to fishing areas.

Robertson said that the two agencies together manage a “world-class fisheries resource. Having the Forest Service and the BLM pitch in together to promote recreational fisheries means that people are going to be getting a lot more fishing and fun out of their federal lands.”

Jamison said that both agencies have ongoing recreation and fisheries programs and often manage adjoining lands. “We’re going to be working together, along with other federal agencies, state governments, and recreation and fishing groups, to boost recreational fishing on the lands we manage,” he said.

Jamison added that the demand for recreational fishing on public lands and national forests is growing each year. Last year, visitors to these lands enjoyed an equivalent of about 50 million days of recreational fishing worth an estimated \$103 million to local economies.

The Forest Service manages 191 million acres of national forest and grassland in 43 states. These lands encompass about 128,000 miles of fishable streams and rivers; 16,500 miles of coast and shoreline; and 2.2 million acres of ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

BLM administers more than 270 million public land acres in 11 Western states. These public lands include 155,000 miles of fishable streams and rivers and over 4 million acres of lakes and reservoirs.

USDA: Len Carey (202) 447-3760

USDI: Joan Redfield (202) 343-5717

#

LESS PESKY PESTS POSSIBLE FROM FASTER GENETIC ENGINEERING METHOD

WASHINGTON, March 20—Tiny needles swirling in salt water pierce holes into cells, and foreign genes rush in. This new process may one day mean house flies that produce fewer eggs or mosquitoes that don’t bite.

The genetic engineering technique, which is at least a thousand times faster than the method currently used to alter fly eggs, was developed for house flies by U.S. Department of Agriculture geneticist Andrew F.

Cockburn. He shared it with University of Florida scientists who have successfully transferred DNA into citrus tissue.

“Genetic engineering of insect pests and possibly crops could now be feasible and practical where it never has been before,” said Cockburn of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

He stressed that genes to cause beneficial changes still need to be found.

Working at the Insects Affecting Man and Animals Research Laboratory in Gainesville, Fla., Cockburn transferred material—either a test gene or dye—into eggs of the house fly, stable fly, Caribbean fruit fly and the non-pest drosophila fly. Mosquito eggs have harder shells, but Cockburn is confident that he can penetrate those with new genes.

Scientists have been trying for years to genetically engineer these insects. “Insect eggs and plant cells are designed to keep things out—things like viruses, bacteria and any DNA we might try to insert,” Cockburn said.

Another technique tested for fly eggs—microinjection—could only alter one egg per year. In the latest issue of Agricultural Research magazine, Cockburn reported that his new technique can alter eggs at the rate of one per hour.

That’s because this quick method transfers genes into thousands of fly eggs in a few minutes, he said. With microinjection, scientists can only inject two or three eggs in the same time period.

With either technique, tens of thousands of eggs must be successfully engineered in order for just one fly to show the new characteristics.

ARS has applied for a patent on Cockburn’s new technique. To use it, a scientist concocts a mix of cells, genes, and microscopically thin whiskers into a saline solution and spins it on a laboratory blender called a vortex mixer. Made of silicon carbide, the whiskers’ usual job is to give ceramic the strength to hold together in such stress-bearing products as car engines.

“It’s kind of like being in a jacuzzi with a porcupine,” Cockburn said. “Each time a whisker hits an egg, a tiny hole results. That hole allows some of the genetic material to enter the egg.”

With microinjection, scientists painstakingly insert a miniature hypodermic needle into an egg while watching it under a microscope. Microinjection equipment costs a lab about \$15,000, compared to the \$180 price tag on the vortex used in the new method. “Almost every lab has one,” Cockburn said.

He originally began trying to genetically engineer pest flies two years ago. He and chemist David Carlson tested a gene gun that propels gene-coated pellets into cells. Carlson made the gun in his garage from his grandfather's 22-caliber pistol. In most cases, the pellets either didn't penetrate insect cells or "squashed them completely," he said. Pellets did penetrate a few eggs, but not enough to be useful.

Cockburn began work on the "jacuzzi" method, which he also calls the "silicon carbide whiskers" technique.

He had planned on using a sonicator, in which sound waves shake a mixture rapidly. But that afternoon in Gainesville, torrential rainfall discouraged technician Henry Meier from walking across the parking lot to the lab next door—where the sonicator was housed. He suggested they try the vortex, located right in their own lab. Cockburn said, "I laughed and said, 'That's silly, but go ahead.' He did, and he got such incredible results we didn't bother trying the sonicator."

The two will continue their research to get even faster results than the ones they already have.

Jessica M. Silva (301) 344-3927

Issued: March 20, 1990

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USDA LISTS CERTIFIED HORSE PROTECTION PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, March 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the 1990 list of horse industry organizations that are certified to carry out designated qualified person (DQP) training under the Horse Protection Act.

This list advises the general public and the horse industry of the certified horse protection representatives, or DQP's, under the Horse Protection Act. The act explicitly forbids the show or sale of horses which are sore or have been sored intentionally by the use of cruel methods, devices or chemical substances on a horse's legs to accentuate its gait. DQP's are charged with examining horses to ensure enforcement of this act.

In order to be licensed as a DQP, a person must have experience in the horse business on the level expected from stewards, judges and other show officials and have completed the training provided by USDA-

certified organizations. By profession, DQP's may be veterinarians, farriers, horse trainers and the like.

A current list of certified programs and licensed DQP's was published in the March 1 Federal Register.

Douglas L. Hendrix (301) 436-7255

#

GARY BYRNE APPOINTED REA ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, March 21—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today swore in California native Gary C. Byrne as the 11th administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Electrification Administration. Byrne was nominated for the post by President Bush in December 1989, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 9.

Byrne will oversee management of the \$37 billion REA portfolio of loans to rural electric and telephone cooperatives. As REA administrator, he will also serve as governor of the Rural Telephone Bank. The REA portfolio currently includes direct loans and guarantees to about 2,000 rural electric and telephone utilities in 46 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Yeutter said Byrne's broad experience in banking and financial management will serve him well in managing REA's important federal lending activities. That experience includes Byrne's tenure as chairman of the Bank of Alex Brown, Sacramento, Calif., from 1985 to 1989, and as president and chief executive officer of that bank from 1987 to 1989. He simultaneously held identical posts with the company's investment subsidiary, the Alex Brown Financial Group.

Byrne has also served as chairman or director of several other California financial institutions, including Meridian National Bank and Meridian Bancorp; River City Money Management Company; and H.C. Elliott, Inc. He was a member of the California Bankers Association.

Byrne's community service in California includes former membership on the boards of the University of Redlands and Sutter Community Hospitals; former membership in the South Sacramento Rotary Club and the Boy Scouts of America Golden Empire Council; and service on the California State Senate Commission on Corporate Governance, Shareholders Rights, and Securities Transactions.

Byrne earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Redlands in 1965, and a doctorate in political science from the University of North Carolina in 1969. He did postgraduate studies at the University of Bonn and the University of Montpellier in France. He has written numerous articles and professional papers on socioeconomic and political issues.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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ACID GIVES RICE PLANTS GROWTH BOOST

WASHINGTON, March 21—Treating seed with a growth regulator helps get semidwarf rice plants up through the soil and growing well, a U.S. Department of Agriculture geneticist has reported.

Semi-dwarf rice varieties have become popular with farmers because their stems are less likely to break and dump grain on the ground. But if farmers plant semi-dwarf rice seed even a quarter-inch too deep, that part of the plant that emerges first from the seed may not grow enough to push its way up through the soil, according to Robert H. Dilday of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The result is young rice plants that emerge unevenly or not at all.

Treating rice seed with GA3, a type of gibberellic acid, lengthens those early plant parts, called the mesocotyl and coleoptile, Dilday said. Although the treatment causes the seedling to grow faster until it is six to eight inches tall, Dilday said uniform plant emergence, rather than quick growth, is the most significant contribution of the GA3 treatment.

"In rice, everything you do is centered around the time of emergence of the stand," he explained. "If emergence is spread out over two to three weeks, you don't know when to time your fertilizer or herbicide applications."

Dilday also said timing of harvest affects rice's milling quality. Rice is usually harvested when its moisture content is 17 to 18 percent, because rice with less moisture than that is more likely to break. Farmers are paid only about half as much for broken kernels.

In three years of experiments at the ARS Rice Production and Weed Control Research Unit at Stuttgart, Ark., Dilday and fellow researcher Ronnie S. Helms of the University of Arkansas treated semi-dwarf rice seed with GA3 at 10, 50 or 100 parts per million.

The treated seed was dried and planted in growth chambers and in fields at Stuttgart, Rohwer and Mayflower, Ark.

“In some instances, the length of the mesocotyl and coleoptile actually doubled,” Dilday said. “We thought we’d eliminated the semi-dwarf characteristics. But at maturity, there are no significant differences in plant height between treated and untreated semi-dwarf varieties, regardless of the rate of GA3 used.”

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

Issued: March 21, 1990

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FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 21—Under new regulations effective today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service will play a more active role in approving oil and gas leasing and operations on the 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands.

The rules are being issued under the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, which conferred upon the secretary of agriculture legal authority for the management of oil and gas leasing on National Forest System lands.

In announcing the new regulations, Forest Service Chief F. Dale ion’s energy rangeland, and also recognize the mandate to conserve the environmental quality of these regions. The regulations were created to assure that oil and gas production on National Forest System lands continues, but only in an environmentally sound manner.”

Final authority to issue oil and gas leases and permits to drill on National Forest System lands, as well as on other federal land, remains with the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management. But under the new rules, BLM cannot issue leases on National Forest System land without prior approval of the Forest Service. Any proposed surface-disturbing activities connected with drilling or exploration also must be approved by the Forest Service before being implemented. If a leasee fails or refuses to comply with FS-approved provisions for drilling and exploration, the secretary of agriculture is empowered to deny the leasee any future leases.

Approximately 15.5 million acres of the 191 million acres of National Forest System land are under oil and gas lease, and annually produce 21

million barrels of oil and 205 billion cubic feet of gas. In 1989, revenues from these leases exceeded \$100 million.

The new regulations became effective today upon publication in the Federal Register. For more information contact Stanley Kurcaba, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, USDA, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090; telephone (202) 453-8224.

Diane Hitchings (202) 447-3760

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USDA SUPPORTS QUALITY OF COMMODITY PROGRAM FOODS

WASHINGTON, March 21—Canned meats and commodity foods provided to Native American Indian tribes “are nutritious and taste good,” according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

Betty Jo Nelsen, administrator of USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, said she has sampled the government foods provided to low-income people, including many Native Americans.

“I have heard the discussion about the quality of our commodities,” Nelsen said, “so I asked the FNS staff to prepare some dishes using commodities in basic recipes—nothing fancy. In every instance the food was good.”

“Commodity program canned meats and meat products compare favorably with what you buy in the grocery store, and in fact most are packed by the same companies that sell food under popular labels,” Nelsen said.

About 143,000 Native Americans and 271,000 low-income women, infants and children, and elderly people each day consume USDA commodities, whether as participants in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

USDA has improved its foods regularly to keep pace with new knowledge of nutrition, Nelsen said. Sugar, salt and fat content of the foods has been reduced; and a greater effort is being made to provide increased amounts of fruits and vegetables.

Nelsen said USDA canned beef and pork do have a layer of fat across the top when the can is opened, because the meat is cooked in the can. “It’s not hard to skim off that fat, and then you can see the meat in its natural juices,” Nelsen said. “The actual fat level of this meat is less

than 15 percent. The overall percentage of calories from fat in the entire food package is 31.6 percent. That's consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and well below the average American diet."

Nelsen said the meat is meant to be used in recipes with other ingredients, and not eaten directly from the can. USDA provides recipes on the cans using commodity foods, she said.

American Indians living on or near reservations may choose to get food stamps or commodity program foods. More than 60 different types of commodities are available, including tuna, peanut butter, egg mix, nonfat dry milk, canned fruits and vegetables, juices, and grain products including whole grain flour and rice. Each commodity recipient gets approximately 70 pounds of food a month.

John Webster (703) 756-3276

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USDA WILL AUTHORIZE SPRING AND FALL LEASING OF DARK AIR-CURED POUNDAGE QUOTAS

WASHINGTON, March 21—A U.S. Department of Agriculture official today announced that if producers of dark air-cured tobacco types 35 and 36 approve poundage quotas in the March 26-30 referendum then USDA intends to allow the spring and fall leasing of such quotas.

Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said that although details of the expanded transfer provisions including the exact dates the transfer would be made will be issued soon, USDA is making this announcement now so that producers will have the information prior to the referendum. If more than one-half of the dark air-cured producers disapprove of quotas on a poundage basis, acreage allotments will be in effect for the 1990 marketing year and the current lease and transfer rules will continue to be applicable.

Dark air-cured tobacco types 35 and 36 is grown primarily in Kentucky and Tennessee with some production in Indiana.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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USDA SETTLES 15 ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON, March 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture settled 15 cases during January to enforce federal animal and plant health laws and regulations.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is responsible for a variety of programs to prevent, control or eradicate pests and diseases of plants and animals. In enforcing the regulations to accomplish this mission, legal action is generally taken against violators only after repeated efforts to secure compliance are unsuccessful, according to James W. Glosser, administrator of APHIS.

The latest monthly figures show that individuals and businesses who violated the regulations were fined a total of \$15,750 and three veterinarians had their federal accreditation suspended.

Also, port inspectors collected \$71,550 in civil penalties from 2,187 international travelers caught smuggling potentially hazardous agricultural products into the country and \$4,700 from 41 businesses or shipping companies that mishandled or improperly disposed of regulated garbage.

In addition, 11 other charges were filed during January against persons or businesses accused of violating agency regulations. Two involved the importation of prohibited plants and soil; three involved the mishandling of foreign-origin garbage; and six involved horse soring incidents.

USDA enforces its regulations primarily through administrative charges, many of which are resolved through consent orders, levying specified penalties. Alternatively, an administrative law judge hears the case and renders a decision. Either USDA or the respondent may appeal the administrative law judge's decision to the USDA's judicial officer. The respondent only may appeal an adverse decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The following actions were settled in January:

GARBAGE HANDLING REGULATIONS—To prevent the spread of dangerous animal and plant diseases or pests, all food waste or refuse accumulated on board international aircraft or ocean vessels must be stored in tight, leak-proof, covered receptacles until it can be properly disposed of at a facility approved by the USDA.

—Rosenbalm Aviation, Inc., of Ypsilanti, Mich., was assessed a \$250 civil penalty by an administrative law judge after it failed to respond to USDA charges of violating federal regulations for handling foreign-origin

garbage. USDA alleged that on or about Oct. 31, 1988, the company unloaded garbage from a commercial flight arriving from the Netherlands at Dayton International Airport in Vandalia, Ohio, and failed to dispose of the waste at an approved facility for incineration, sterilization or grinding as required.

—Host International, Inc., of Seattle, Wash., agreed to pay a \$500 civil penalty to settle USDA charges that it failed to comply with federal requirements for handling foreign-origin garbage. USDA alleged that on April 29, 1989, the company unloaded garbage from commercial flights arriving at SEA-TAC International Airport in Seattle, Wash., from Scandinavia and Mexico without securing the waste in tight, leak-proof covered receptacles as required.

INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK—Certain livestock moving across state lines must be identified and accompanied by health certificates and permits, depending on the species, age, sex, health status and origin of the animals. A number of livestock diseases, such as brucellosis and tuberculosis, are being eradicated under cooperative state-federal programs; however, these diseases could spread rapidly if dealers and producers fail to follow shipping rules.

—Charles Reed of Mountain Grove, Mo., was assessed a \$2,000 civil penalty by an administrative law judge for failing to comply with federal cattle shipping regulations. A hearing in the matter was held Sept. 20, 1989, in Springfield, Mo., wherein the judge ruled that Reed violated the standards on Sept. 4, 1986, by moving two brucellosis reactor calves from Mountain Grove, Mo., to East St. Louis, Ill., without the required permit. Also, the judge found that Reed violated shipping requirements on Oct. 27, 1988, by moving at least one test-eligible cow from Springfield, Mo., to East St. Louis, Ill., without an accompanying health certificate.

—Douglas Burdette and Marcus Burdette of Nacogdoches, Texas, along with Ben Lee Johnson of Malakoff, Texas, have each agreed to pay a civil penalty totaling \$2,750 without admitting or denying USDA charges that they violated federal cattle shipping regulations. Specifically, Douglas Burdette agreed to pay \$500, Marcus Burdette \$1,750 and Ben Johnson \$500 to settle their involvement in the matter. USDA alleged that on three occasions between May 27 and July 16, 1987, these men were responsible for moving brucellosis-reactor and exposed cattle interstate other than directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment or quarantine feedlot as required. Other violations were cited because some

of the cattle included in those shipments were moved without an accompanying certificate and Texas permit for entry.

—Kenneth Eade of San Ardo, Calif., agreed to pay a \$250 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that he violated federal cattle shipping regulations. USDA alleged that on or about Oct. 16, 1987, Eade moved approximately 40 cattle interstate from San Ardo, Calif., to Burns, Ore., without subjecting the cattle to the required brucellosis test within 30 days prior to movement and without an accompanying certificate.

HORSE PROTECTION ACT—The Horse Protection Act prohibits soring—the use of cruel methods, devices or irritants to cause pain in a horse's legs to make a more pronounced gait in the show ring.

—Vernon Lee Pugh, a horse trainer in Prichard, Ala., was disqualified for one year by an administrative law judge. Pugh failed to answer a formal complaint charging that he entered the horse, named "Royal Dynasty," in competition while it was sore. The alleged violation occurred on July 11, 1987, at the Fifth Annual South Jones Band Aid Walking and Racking Horse Show in Ellisville, Miss. Terms of the disqualification require Pugh to refrain from showing or exhibiting any horse and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show or sale until Nov. 17, 1990.

—Mickey Henderson, a horse trainer in Olive Hill, Ky., was disqualified for one year and was fined \$2,000 by an administrative law judge. Henderson failed to answer a formal complaint charging that he entered the horse, named "H Dolly Dee," in competition while it was sore. Henderson has 30 days from service of the decision to appeal it to the judicial officer. The violation occurred on May 24, 1987, at the Grayson Jaycees Horse Show in Grayson, Ky. Terms of the disqualification require Henderson to refrain from showing or exhibiting any horse and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show or sale until Dec. 6, 1990.

—Edward R. Breedlove, a horse owner in Buford, Ga., was disqualified for six months and fined \$1,000 without admitting or denying USDA charges of entering the horse, "Carbon's Star Finder," in competition while it was sore. The alleged violation occurred on Aug. 22, 1986, at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tenn. Terms of the disqualification require Breedlove to refrain from showing or exhibiting any horse and from judging, managing

or otherwise participating in any horse show or sale until Dec. 27.

—William S. Warr, a horse owner in Phenix City, Ala., was disqualified for 18 months without admitting or denying USDA charges of entering two horses, “Super Susan,” and “Secret Selection,” in competition while they were sore. The alleged violations occurred on Aug. 24, 1986, and June 25, 1988, at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tenn., and at the Fourth Annual Wikes County Horse Show in Washington, Ga., respectively. Terms of the disqualification require Warr to refrain from showing or exhibiting any horse and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show or sale until Jan. 4, 1991.

—Travis Bowen, a horse owner and trainer in Saint Elmo, Ala., was disqualified for one year without admitting or denying USDA charges of entering the horse, “Golden Honey,” in competition while it was sore. The alleged violation occurred on July 11, 1987, at the Fifth Annual South Jones Band Aid Walking and Racking Horse Show in Ellisville, Miss. Terms of the disqualification require Bowen to refrain from showing or exhibiting any horse and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show or sale until Feb. 11, 1991.

—Johnnie J. Zeller and Jo Anne Zeller, horse owners in Eubank, Ky., were each disqualified for six months and jointly fined a \$2,000 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges of entering and exhibiting the horse, “Will He Push,” in competition while it was sore. The alleged violation occurred on Aug. 6, 1988, at the Russell County Fair Horse Show in Russell Springs, Ky. Terms of the disqualification require the Zellers to refrain from showing or exhibiting any horse and from judging, managing or otherwise participating in any horse show or sale.

SWINE HEALTH PROTECTION ACT—This action requires that food waste be properly treated before it is fed to swine in order to help prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases.

—Glen W. Shaw of New Ipswich, N.H., was assessed a \$5,000 civil penalty and was ordered by an administrative law judge to cease and desist from future violations of the Swine Health Protection Act and, in particular from restricting access to his real and personal property for the purpose of inspection. Also, Shaw’s license to operate a garbage facility has been suspended for 30 days and continuing until he is in full compliance with the regulations. USDA charged that during a routine

compliance inspection on Oct. 22, 1987, Shaw refused to grant USDA inspectors access to the farrowing barn to observe and physically inspect the garbage and animals being kept there.

VETERINARY ACCREDITATION—USDA accredits practicing veterinarians to perform official services for USDA. To become accredited, veterinarians must pass a special examination and adhere to a strict code of ethics, regulations and procedures. Suspension or revocation of accreditation does not affect a veterinarian's state license to practice veterinary medicine.

—Mark Cunningham of Lebanon, Ind., agreed to have his federal accreditation suspended for 30 days from Dec. 17, 1989, to Jan. 15. USDA alleged that Cunningham failed to issue interstate health certificates in accordance with prescribed standards; that he signed a certificate for cattle without indicating on the official document that brucellosis testing was performed by another veterinarian; that he failed to list the veterinarian's name and the true name of the owner of these animals; and that he failed to personally inspect and individually identify the cattle intended for movement from Indiana to Missouri on Jan. 30, 1989.

—Harley E. Purvis, Jr., of Hernando, Miss., had a previous judgment to suspend his veterinary accreditation for six months upheld following an appeal to the judicial officer. The judicial officer ruled that the evidence supported USDA allegations that Purvis violated federal cattle shipping regulations. The judge found that on April 25, 1985, Purvis issued a health certificate that was not fully and accurately completed for 18 cattle intended for movement from Senatobia, Miss., to Dalhart, Tenn. Also, he failed to adequately and personally inspect the cattle and to list on the certificate the individual identification of each animal included in the shipment. Purvis has appealed the judicial officer's decision.

—Quincy A. Shaw of Florence, Vt., agreed to have his veterinary accreditation suspended for two years without admitting or denying USDA charges that he failed to take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of a communicable disease of livestock and that he caused the equine infectious anemia status of a horse to be falsely identified. The violations occurred on June 1 and June 11, 1988. Allegedly Shaw failed to fully and accurately complete the required test records and to immediately report their misuse to the proper animal health authorities.

Questa Glenn (301) 436-6464

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USDA DECIDES THREE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON, March 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture settled three cases during January to enforce the humane care and treatment of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act.

James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the cases resulted from earlier charges. Details are:

—Norma Jean Klushman of Lockwood, Mo., consented to the issuance of a cease-and-desist order and to having her federal dealer's license suspended for 90 days beginning Nov. 29, 1989, without admitting or denying USDA charges that she failed to comply with identification, recordkeeping, housing, sanitation and veterinary care standards of the Animal Welfare Act. The license suspension will remain in effect until Klushman demonstrates her facility is in full compliance with federal regulations. If she is in compliance by the end of the suspension, her license will be reinstated.

—Dora Mae Dale of Macedonia, Ill., was ordered by an administrative law judge to cease and desist from future violations of the Animal Welfare Act and, in particular, from operating without a federal license. Also, Dale was disqualified from applying for an animal dealer's license for two years. USDA alleged that on Feb. 23, 1987, Dale sold 191 dogs without having the required license to sell the animals wholesale.

—Ronald and Jeri Wagner of Watertown, S.D., each agreed to a cease-and-desist order and to jointly pay a \$500 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA allegations that on Dec. 4, 1986, they offered for transport from Sioux Falls, S.D., to West Palm Beach, Fla., 12 dogs in six shipping containers that were too small for the animals to turn about freely in a standing position, sit erect and to lie in a natural position.

Standards for the care and treatment of certain animals have been required by the Animal Welfare Act since 1966. Animals protected by the law must be provided adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, veterinary care and protection against extremes of weather and temperature. The law covers animals that are sold as pets at the wholesale level, or are used for biomedical research or for exhibition.

USDA enforces the act primarily through administrative prosecutions. Many of these cases are resolved through the consent decision provisions of the regulations. Under these provisions, USDA and the respondent

named in the complaint agree to a stipulated order and penalties. If the case is not settled, there is a hearing before an administrative law judge who issues a decision. Any party may appeal the administrative law judge's decision to the USDA's judicial officer. The respondent may appeal an adverse decision by the judicial officer to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Failure to respond to the charges in the complaint results in the issuance of a default order assessing penalties.

Dealers, breeders, brokers, transportation companies, exhibitors and research facilities must be licensed or registered. USDA personnel make periodic, unannounced inspections to help assure compliance. Action is taken against violators after efforts to secure compliance are unsuccessful, Glosser said.

Questa Glenn (301) 436-7799

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U.S.-USSR REACH ACCORD ON LONG-TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, March 22—The United States and the Soviet Union have reached agreement in principle today on a new U.S.-Soviet Long-Term Grain Agreement (LTA), Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and the U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills announced.

Meeting in Vienna, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Julius Katz and his counterpart, Deputy Foreign Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Yuriy Chumakov, agreed on basic provisions of a five-year pact providing for an increase in the minimum purchase amount of U.S. wheat, feedgrains, soybeans and soybean meal to be purchased by the Soviet Union. The new agreement will succeed the current pact, in effect since 1983, which will expire on December 31, 1990. Minimum annual shipments will be increased to ten million metric tons of U.S. grain to the U.S.S.R., from the nine million ton minimum in the current agreement.

According to Yeutter and Hills, "This agreement represents a welcome advance in the relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R." They praised the negotiators' work and said the accord "is a real contribution to both countries that will enlarge market opportunities for America's farmers who are supercompetitive."

The Soviet Union will have some greater flexibility than in the 1989 agreement in choosing between wheat and feedgrains on a year to year basis; however over the life of the agreement the minimum amount will be met. The agreement calls for annual purchases of at least four million metric tons each of wheat and feedgrains; however, in any one year the Soviet Union can substitute up to 750,000 metric tons of one commodity for the other.

Over the span of the agreement, U.S. farmers are assured a stable market for at least twenty million metric tons each of wheat and feedgrains, with a balance of ten million metric tons that can be fulfilled with purchases of wheat, feedgrains, soybeans or soybean meal.

Further details of the agreement will be released upon signature.

Kelly Shipp, USDA 202 447-4623
Torie Clarke, USTR 202 395-3230

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